निगम बनाने के विकल्प का अनुसरण करने के साथ-साथ डी ओ टी का तर्क संगत पुनगर्ठन करने तथा इसे सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता के बारे में व्यापक सर्व सहमति पाई गयी है। इनके बारे में (तथा इससे जुड़े मुद्दे के बारे में) व्यापक अध्ययन करने तथा मूल्यांकन करने की आवश्यकता है जिसकी विधिवत शुरुआत कर दी गई है।

Revenue Sharing Between Basic Service Operators and DoT.

4464. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines or put any conditions like revenue sharing between basic service operators and the Department of Telecommunications, during fourth round of bidding in respect of eight circles, as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi Edition, dated 4th July, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating demands of cellular operators and reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps Goverment have taken so far for telecom expansion will full transparency and targets set in this regard during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of 'a' above. However, the cellular operators have demanded a moratorium on the payment of Licence Fee and extension of the licence period. The matter has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) and their report is awaited.

(c) The targets set for various Telecom Services for 1998-99 are as given below:—

(i)	New Switching Capacity	—	49.3 lakh lines
(ii)	Direct Exchange Lines	—	36 lakh lines
(iii)	Tax Capacity	—	4.5 lakh lines
(iv)	Microwave/UHF	—	19500 Rkms.
(v)	Optical Fibre	—	35000 Rkms.
(vi)	VPTs	—	45000 Nos.

Requests to Provide Certain Equipment to the A.P. Telecom Circle International Airports

4465. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received to provide certain equipment to the A.P. Telecom Circle for early implementation of the State wide area network in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken to supply necessary equipments to remove encroachments and improve roads infrastructure in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Request had been received for allotment of certain store items to remove encroachments and improve roads infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh Telecommunication Circle. Most of the store items have been allotted and material received under Mission Better communication and development works are also being diverted for these works.

Steps to Motivate Private Operators in Rural Areas

4466. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Telecom Policy, 1994, sought to attract private sector investment of Rs. 23,000 crore for providing basic telephone services in competition with DoT;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken or plans to motivate the private

operators, seeking large profits to connect the low return in rural areas;

(c) the number of persons still awaiting for telephone connections from urban areas and small rural settlements; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for rapid extension of telephone density to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minimum obligation to be met by private opertators for village public telephones (VPTs) is 10% of direct exchange line s to be provided by them in every quarter of a year till coverage of all villages in the licensed service area. A weightage of 15% (Max.) was earmarked to provide impetus for coverage of rural areas in the tender documents for award of licences.

(c) Abour 29.5 lakhs as on 31.5.98.

(d) Government proposes to install a large number of small capacity digital electronic exchanges and wireless systems in rural areas?

Appointment of Junior Accounts Officers in Department of Posts

4467. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmentare aware of the fact that Postal employees who have qualified for Junior Accounts officers' Post from the year 1990 onwards are not given promotion for want of vacancies in the Postal Department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Junior Accounts Officers' Posts are vacant in the Department of Telecommunications for want of qualified hands; and

(c) if so, whether Government will come forward to appoint persons who qualified for Postal Department in the Telecommunication Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Telecom. may take qualified JAOs from other Departments/Organisations including Department of Posts on deputation basis if sufficient number of candidates in the Department of Telecom. do not qualify the JAO (Telecom.) Examinaton.

Financial Burden on Account of DOT's Conversion into An Operating Company

4468. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have calculated the immediate financial burden which will have to be incurred by Govenrment if the DoT is converted into an operating company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Preliminary exercises with regard to possible restructuring options for separation of the service providing arm of the Department of Telecom from the Ministry, including financial implications have been made. No final decision has, however, been taken in the matter.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges

4469. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert mannual telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?